Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

A resume for the registration to the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

in English under the Faculty of Humanities

Along the Way Exploring People and Places: A Study of Select Travelogues

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Introduction:

Literature in English has long been celebrated for its ability to transport readers to different times, cultures and landscapes. Within this vast literary tradition, travelogue has emerged as a captivating genre that depicts the essence of exploration, discovery, and the human experience. By chronicling the journey of travellers as they encounter diverse people and places, travelogue offers a unique perspective on the world and provides insights into the complexities of human interaction and cultural exchange.

The present research work aims to delve deep into the realm of the select travelogues for examining their significance as a form of literary expression and exploring the ways in which they shape our understanding of people and places. Simultaneously an attempt will be made, to unravel the concerns and socio-cultural implications embedded within the works chosen.

As a literary genre, travel-writing has had its rich tradition. The distant hills have always enchanted travellers. The call of the unknown has led many a travellers to a quest and created a corpus of travel writing. Travel writing is not only about places, geography or mounments or journey particulars but also about people and society. It is the narration of people's perspective and their candid customs which make travel writing captivating, persuasive, consummate and bestows to be reckoned as the creative form of literature.

Travel literature can be anything- a personal story, narration of any incident or information about the hidden aspects of a locale. Travelogue can also help us as a guide to reach to the inaccessible, to explore the hidden and to unravel the treasures of knowledge.

Travel writing is broadly divided into four main types:ancient, medieval, pre colonial and post colonial. Travelogue is the product of autobiographical and memoir writing.

The present study will adopt a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach, drawing upon elements from literary theory, cultural studies, post colonial studies, and geography. This interdisciplinary lenses will enable a multifaceted exploration of the chosen travelogues, shedding light on their literary merits, socio-political contexts, and the broader discourses of identity, power, and representation that they engage with. Travelogue, as a variety of genres can be categorized amongst the non-fiction genres. The genre changes with the time and technological advancements. With the advent of new genre, the old genres get revived in a new fashion and are given new names as mentioned above.

The Indian Context:

The era of Indian travel writing is gigantic and holds its existence centuries back.Travel writings, as it is understood today, is essentially a western literary genre introduced to India during the British colonialism. The early Indian travel writing ranges from 600 BCE to 1500 BCE. Wikipedia entry on it contains only sixty four writers in the list and the number of Indian women travel writer is misarably stands at seven only. To name a few noteworthy travelogue writers are: Salman Rushdie, V. S. Naipaul, Arundhati Roy, Suketu Mehta, Amitav Ghosh, Ruskin Bond, Noor Zaheer, Ajit Harisinghani, etc.

Review of Literature:

Travel writing is about real places. It may range from literary to journalistic and from homorus to serious. In the 13th century, Marcopolo was a venetian traveler. His work *The Million(1298)* is known as 'a classic of travel literature.' In the 14th century, a famous and well known Moroccan world traveler Ibn Battuta wrote *The Rihla*(1355). It's a tale of a great journey. Ibn Battuta started his journey at the age of 21. Jean Baptiste Tavernier, A traveler and merchant vistis India for six times during 1630-68. He wrote *Travels in India*(1676). In the 19th century, Mark Twain was one of the greatest writers. He wrotes *The Innocents Abroad*(1869) in which he narrated. He tells the journey to Europe and Quaker City. *The Seven Poor Travellers*(1854) a short story was writtern by Charles Dickens in the same century.

Rahul Sankrityayan is known as a 'Father of Indian Travelogue.' He made travelogues a literary form. He wrote in regional languages. *Tibbat Me Sava Varsha, Yatra Ke Panne, Kinner Desh Me* are some of his works. In the decade of 1960, travel writing were gaining popularity. Authors who had passion to travel, recorded their experiences in their works with travel as a major theme. One of them is V.S.Naipaul. His journeys are interior as well as geographic. His works are considered milestones in travel literature. *The Middle Passage: The Caribbean Revisited*(1962),*The Area of Darkness*(1964), *India Wounded Civilization*(1976), *India: A Million Mutinies Now*(1990) are a few among the travel writings of early sixties.

Travel writing introduces us to new places, peoples and cultures. According to Aparna Venu," Travel writing is one of the interesting mediums to translate culture." Travel writing plays a major role in translation of the culture and also it creats curiosity about the places. In Journal of Pharmaceutical Negative Results(Vol.3), Christing Bertrand Firebaugh noted, "Beside travel for the porpose of trade, travelers have found various reasons for traveling-

including exploration, discovery, advancing the progress of Humankind, or fulfilling a simple curiosity about other places and people."

Hypothesis:

Following are the hypothesis of the research work:

1. The cultures of diverse geographical locations.
2. The correlation of man with nature.
3. Different life styles in the select travelogues.

Aims and Objectives:

1. To examine the ways in which the select travelogues portray the diversity of people and places.
2. To analyze the depiction of different cultures, societies, and individuals.
3. To explore the concerns and motifs that emerge within the select travelogues.
4. To analyse the concepts such as identity, colonialism, and globalization as manifested in the narratives.
5. To interpret the complexities of human experiences across geographical and cultural boundaries.

The Research Methodology:

The research methodology will be analytical and interpretable in nature. It will be one of descriptive, exploratory, and interpretative in nature.

Tentative Chapter Scheme:

The present research study has been divided into five chapters, namely:

Chapter 1. Introduction

Chapter 2. Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found

Chapter 3. The Living Road: A Motorcycle Journey to Bhutan

Chapter 4. At Home In Enemy Land

Chapter 5. Conclusion

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